

Union Calendar No. 77

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 658

[Report No. 106–138]

To establish the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in the State of New York as an affiliated area of the National Park System.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 1999

Mr. SWEENEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

MAY 13, 1999

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on February 9, 1999]

A BILL

To establish the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in the State of New York as an affiliated area of the National Park System.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) *SHORT TITLE.*—*This Act may be cited as the*
 3 *“Thomas Cole National Historic Site Act”.*

4 (b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—*The table of contents of this*
 5 *Act is as follows:*

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

Sec. 3. Findings and purposes.

Sec. 4. Establishment of Thomas Cole National Historic Site.

Sec. 5. Retention of ownership and management of historic site by Greene County
Historical Society.

Sec. 6. Administration of historic site.

Sec. 7. Authorization of appropriations.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 *As used in this Act:*

8 (1) *The term “historic site” means the Thomas*
 9 *Cole National Historic Site established by section 4 of*
 10 *this Act.*

11 (2) *The term “Hudson River artists” means art-*
 12 *ists who were associated with the Hudson River school*
 13 *of landscape painting.*

14 (3) *The term “plan” means the general manage-*
 15 *ment plan developed pursuant to section 6(d).*

16 (4) *The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of*
 17 *the Interior.*

18 (5) *The term “Society” means the Greene County*
 19 *Historical Society of Greene County, New York, which*
 20 *owns the Thomas Cole home, studio, and other prop-*
 21 *erty comprising the historic site.*

1 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

2 (a) *FINDINGS.*—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) *The Hudson River school of landscape paint-*
4 *ing was inspired by Thomas Cole and was character-*
5 *ized by a group of 19th century landscape artists who*
6 *recorded and celebrated the landscape and wilderness*
7 *of America, particularly in the Hudson River Valley*
8 *region in the State of New York.*

9 (2) *Thomas Cole is recognized as America's most*
10 *prominent landscape and allegorical painter of the*
11 *mid-19th century.*

12 (3) *Located in Greene County, New York, the*
13 *Thomas Cole House, also known as Thomas Cole's*
14 *Cedar Grove, is listed on the National Register of*
15 *Historic Places and has been designated as a Na-*
16 *tional Historic Landmark.*

17 (4) *Within a 15 mile radius of the Thomas Cole*
18 *House, an area that forms a key part of the rich cul-*
19 *tural and natural heritage of the Hudson River Val-*
20 *ley region, significant landscapes and scenes painted*
21 *by Thomas Cole and other Hudson River artists, such*
22 *as Frederic Church, survive intact.*

23 (5) *The State of New York has established the*
24 *Hudson River Valley Greenway to promote the preser-*
25 *vation, public use, and enjoyment of the natural and*
26 *cultural resources of the Hudson River Valley region.*

1 (6) *Establishment of the Thomas Cole National*
 2 *Historic Site will provide opportunities for the illus-*
 3 *tration and interpretation of cultural themes of the*
 4 *heritage of the United States and unique opportuni-*
 5 *ties for education, public use, and enjoyment.*

6 (b) *PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—*

7 (1) *to preserve and interpret the home and stu-*
 8 *dio of Thomas Cole for the benefit, inspiration, and*
 9 *education of the people of the United States;*

10 (2) *to help maintain the integrity of the setting*
 11 *in the Hudson River Valley region that inspired ar-*
 12 *tistic expression;*

13 (3) *to coordinate the interpretive, preservation,*
 14 *and recreational efforts of Federal, State, and other*
 15 *entities in the Hudson Valley region in order to en-*
 16 *hance opportunities for education, public use, and en-*
 17 *joyment; and*

18 (4) *to broaden understanding of the Hudson*
 19 *River Valley region and its role in American history*
 20 *and culture.*

21 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THOMAS COLE NATIONAL HIS-**
 22 **TORIC SITE.**

23 (a) *ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established, as an af-*
 24 *filiated area of the National Park System, the Thomas Cole*
 25 *National Historic Site in the State of New York.*

1 (b) *DESCRIPTION.*—*The historic site shall consist of the*
 2 *home and studio of Thomas Cole, comprising approxi-*
 3 *mately 3.4 acres, located at 218 Spring Street, in the village*
 4 *of Catskill, New York, as generally depicted on the boundary*
 5 *map numbered TCH/80002, and dated March 1992.*

6 **SEC. 5. RETENTION OF OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF**
 7 **HISTORIC SITE BY GREENE COUNTY HISTOR-**
 8 **ICAL SOCIETY.**

9 *The Greene County Historical Society of Greene Coun-*
 10 *ty, New York, shall continue to own, administer, manage,*
 11 *and operate the historic site.*

12 **SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATION OF HISTORIC SITE.**

13 (a) *APPLICABILITY OF NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM*
 14 *LAWS.*—*The historic site shall be administered in a manner*
 15 *consistent with this Act and all laws generally applicable*
 16 *to units of the National Park System, including the Act*
 17 *of August 25, 1916 (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.; commonly known*
 18 *as the National Park Service Organic Act), and the Act*
 19 *of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.; commonly known*
 20 *as the Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act).*

21 (b) *COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.*—

22 (1) *ASSISTANCE TO SOCIETY.*—*The Secretary*
 23 *may enter into cooperative agreements with the Soci-*
 24 *ety to preserve the Thomas Cole House and other*
 25 *structures in the historic site and to assist with edu-*

1 *cation programs and research and interpretation of*
2 *the Thomas Cole House and associated landscapes.*

3 (2) *OTHER ASSISTANCE.*—*To further the pur-*
4 *poses of this Act, the Secretary may enter into cooper-*
5 *ative agreements with the State of New York, the So-*
6 *cietty, the Thomas Cole Foundation, and other public*
7 *and private entities to facilitate public understanding*
8 *and enjoyment of the lives and works of the Hudson*
9 *River artists through the provision of assistance to de-*
10 *velop, present, and fund art exhibits, resident artist*
11 *programs, and other appropriate activities related to*
12 *the preservation, interpretation, and use of the his-*
13 *toric site.*

14 (c) *ARTIFACTS AND PROPERTY.*—*The Secretary may*
15 *acquire personal property associated with, and appropriate*
16 *for, the interpretation of the historic site.*

17 (d) *GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.*—*Within two com-*
18 *plete fiscal years after the date of the enactment of this Act,*
19 *the Secretary shall develop a general management plan for*
20 *the historic site with the cooperation of the Society. Upon*
21 *the completion of the plan, the Secretary shall provide a*
22 *copy of the plan to the Committee on Energy and Natural*
23 *Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Resources*
24 *of the House of Representatives. The plan shall include rec-*
25 *ommendations for regional wayside exhibits, to be carried*

1 *out through cooperative agreements with the State of New*
2 *York and other public and private entities. The plan shall*
3 *be prepared in accordance with section 12(b) of Public Law*
4 *91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–1 et seq.; commonly known as the*
5 *National Park System General Authorities Act).*

6 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 *There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as*
8 *are necessary to carry out this Act.*

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